



# News Release

**For immediate release:** March 26, 2009

(09-046)

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## **Massage therapist suspended after admitting to sexual contact**

**OLYMPIA** — A Seattle-area massage practitioner accused of sexually touching a male client has been immediately suspended by the state Department of Health.

This action, called a summary suspension, means Robert W. Watts (MA00024943) cannot practice or be employed as a massage practitioner in Washington pending the outcome of a hearing.

Charging documents allege Watts had sexual contact with a client, including massaging the client's penis, during their massage session in October 2008. Watts has 20 days to request a show cause hearing and 20 days to respond to the statement of charges. The charging documents are online; click "Provider Credential Search" on the [agency home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov). They are also available by calling 360-236-4700.

The department protects and promotes public health, safety and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of massage practitioners. Rules, policies and procedures developed by the secretary promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.